

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as previously presented in the parent application (USSN 10/055,819) in the following manner:

1. (currently amended) A multi-level personal utility cart, comprising:
 - a frame including a handle having a rearwardly positioned upper portion, side portions, and a forwardly extending lower portion,
 - a first basket assembly having a forward portion, and a rear portion pivotably secured to said frame, said first basket assembly being and adapted for use as an opened container,
 - a second basket assembly disposed atop the first basket assembly and having a rear portion pivotably secured to said frame, said second basket assembly adapted for use as an opened container, and
 - said frame including a door for accessing the interior of said first basket assembly when the second basket assembly is disposed atop the first basket assembly and is opened,
 - said first and second basket assemblies, when opened, being simultaneously collapsible pivotable on said frame by lifting and pivoting the forward portion of said first basket assembly toward said handle upper portion so that said first and second basket assemblies can be simultaneously collapsed against a portion of said frame into a compact and substantially planar structure.
2. (Previously presented). The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 1, and further including wheels supported on said lower handle portion.

3. (Original) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 2, wherein said wheels are swivel wheels and are spaced apart from one another.

4. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 2, wherein said frame further includes a vertical support member depending from said handle portion, and a second set of wheels supported on said support member, wherein said door is pivotably supported by said vertical support member.

5. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 1, wherein said first basket assembly is supported on said lower portion of said handle.

6. (Original) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 1, wherein said first and second basket assemblies each includes panels at the front, sides, and bottom thereof, said second basket assembly further being supported by said first basket assembly.

7. (Currently amended) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 6, wherein said second basket assembly is pivotably collapsible against the handle upper portion of said frame independently of the pivotable collapse of said first basket assembly whereby the interior of said first basket assembly can be accessed independently of the interior of said second basket assembly.

8. (Currently amended) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 6, wherein said frame includes a grillwork backbone and vertically extending, parallel support members, said support members depending from the side portions of said handle, and said backbone extending laterally between said support members and forming the rear panel for each of said upper and lower basket assemblies.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 6, wherein said front, side and bottom panels of upper and lower basket assemblies are substantially planar elements.

11. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 10, wherein said substantially planar elements are comprised of wires in a grillwork configuration.

12. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 6, wherein said frame includes slide members slidably supported on said side portions of said handle, said slide members supporting therebetween a grillwork backbone panel which forms the back panel of the first and second basket assemblies when the cart is fully open.

13. (Currently amended) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 11 12, wherein each of said side portions of said handle include a locking protruberance, and each of the slide members include a lock adapted to engage the locking protruberance to hold a respective slide member in a secure, fixed, location on the side portion of the handle on which the slide member is supported.

14. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 1, wherein said frame includes clip elements carried by first basket assembly for securing second basket assembly to the first basket assembly, said clip elements being releasably secured to the front of at least the second basket assembly.

15. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 1, wherein said frame includes parallel hook members on a portion thereof for suspending the cart, when the cart is collapsed.

16. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 6, wherein said frame includes tag holders on the front panel of first and second basket assemblies for supporting indicia-bearing tags.

17. (Previously presented) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 1, wherein said first and second basket assemblies are comprised of wire grillwork.

18. (Previously presented) A method for deterring theft of "conventional" shopping carts from market premises, the "conventional" shopping carts being of the kind typically owned or leased, and stocked, by markets to enable customers, who have come to the market premises to obtain goods, to transport the purchased goods from storage or display areas in the market to check-out areas and then to the customers' vehicles, said method further serving the needs of customers to have carts to transport their purchases to their homes after a shopping experience at the markets, the needs of the markets to retain the "conventional" carts at the market premises, and the needs of vendors of products and services to the markets to be recognized by the shopping public, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a "non-conventional" personal shopping cart to the customer for purchase by the customer, said "non-conventional" shopping cart being of the kind that can be lawfully removed by the customer from the market premises,

marking said "non-conventional" shopping cart with information identifying the customer as the owner of the cart,

marking the "non-conventional" shopping cart with information identifying one or more vendors of services or products offered or sold at the market, and

providing the customer with discounts on said services or products offered or sold by said one or more vendors at said market.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said “non-conventional” shopping cart comprises a multi-compartment personal hand cart, and the step of marking the “non-conventional” shopping cart with information identifying the customer as the owner of the shopping cart comprises attaching a tag to an outer surface of one of the compartments, said tag being visible to display owner-identifying information to other customers.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said “non-conventional” shopping cart comprises a personal hand cart having a plurality of baskets stacked upon each other with each basket being uniquely accessible, and said first and second steps of marking said cart with information comprises attaching tags to an outer surface of each of said baskets on the same side of the cart.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said “non-conventional” shopping cart comprises a multi-compartment personal hand cart as recited in claims 1 – 17, and the first step of marking said “non-conventional” shopping cart with information identifying the customer as the owner of the shopping cart comprises attaching a tag to an outer surface of one of the compartments, said tag being visible to display owner-identifying information to other customers.

22. (Previously presented) A method for deterring theft of "conventional" shopping carts from market premises, the "conventional" shopping carts being of the kind typically owned or leased, and stocked, by markets to enable customers, who have come to the market premises to obtain goods, to transport the purchased goods from storage or display areas in the market to check-out areas and then to the customers' vehicles, said method further serving the needs of customers to have carts to transport their purchases to their homes after a shopping experience at the markets, the needs of the markets to retain the "conventional" carts at the market premises, and the needs of vendors of products and services to the markets to be recognized by the shopping public, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a "non-conventional" personal shopping cart to the customer for purchase by the customer, said "non-conventional" shopping cart being of the kind that can be lawfully removed by the customer from the market premises, and including a first basket disposed immediately and vertically below a second basket, both said baskets being pivotably mounted to the same frame, said first and second baskets being movable between a first open position in which both baskets are functional to receive groceries and a second closed position in which both baskets are collapsed and non-usable, said first basket including a door on one side for accessing the contents of the first basket while disposed below the second basket,

marking said "non-conventional" shopping cart with information identifying the customer as the owner of the cart,

marking the "non-conventional" shopping cart with information identifying one or more vendors of services or products offered or sold at the market, and providing the customer with discounts on said services or products offered or sold by said one or more vendors at said market.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said second basket is collapsible independently of said first basket whereby the interior of said first basket can be accessed independently of the interior of said second basket.

24. (new) A multi-level personal utility cart, comprising:

a frame including a handle with an upper portion, side portions, and a forwardly extending lower portion,

a lower basket assembly having a portion pivotably secured to said frame, said lower basket assembly being adapted for use as an opened container,

an upper basket assembly disposed atop the lower basket assembly and having a rear portion pivotably secured to said frame, said upper basket assembly adapted for use as an opened container,

said upper and lower basket assemblies each including panels at the front, sides and bottom thereof, said upper basket assembly being supported on said lower basket assembly when opened,

said frame including slide members slidably supported on said side portions of said handle, said slide members supporting therebetween a backbone panel that forms the back panel of the upper and lower basket assemblies when the cart is fully open, and

means for accessing the interior of said lower basket assembly when the upper basket assembly is opened and disposed atop the lower basket assembly.

25. (new) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 24, wherein each of said handle side portions includes a locking protruberance, and each of the slide members includes a lock adapted to engage the locking protruberance to hold a respective slide member in a secure, fixed, location on the side portion of the handle on which the slide member is supported.

26. (new) The multi-level personal utility cart of claim 25, wherein said means for accessing the lower basket assembly comprises a door carried by said frame.

27. (new) A multi-level personal utility cart, comprising:

a frame including a handle with an upper portion, side portions, and a forwardly extending lower portion,

a lower basket assembly having a portion pivotably secured to said frame, said lower container when opened sitting on the lower portion of said handle,

an upper basket assembly disposed atop the lower basket assembly and having a rear portion pivotably secured to said frame, said upper basket assembly when opened sitting on the lower basket assembly,

said upper and lower basket assemblies each including panels at the front, sides and bottom thereof,

said frame including a door for accessing the interior of said lower basket assembly,

said handle side portions including locking protruberances and slide members slidably supported thereon, and

each of the slide members including a lock adapted to releasably engage the locking protruberance to hold a respective slide member in a secure, fixed, location on the side portion of the handle on which the slide member is supported.